

# PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

506 BROAD STREET  
MILFORD, PA 18337  
570-296-7613  
FAX: 570-296-6055

MATTHEW M. OSTERBERG  
RONALD R. SCHMALZLE  
R. ANTHONY WALDRON

} COMMISSIONERS



GARY R. ORBEN  
CHIEF CLERK

THOMAS F. FARLEY, ESQ.  
COUNTY SOLICITOR

April 28, 2022

Senator Robert Casey  
417 Lackawanna Avenue  
Suite 303  
Scranton, PA 18503

Dear Senator Casey:

We are contacting you regarding the proposal, being promoted by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club, to change the designation of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) to Delaware River National Park & Lenape Preserve. The proposal is a recommendation of DWGNRA's Vision 2023 first published in August of 2014.

Earlier this year, we received a briefing on this proposal from former DWGNRA Superintendent John Donahue, now a consultant of the Sierra Club. We have also received numerous questions about this proposal from constituents, some of whom have requested that we take a formal position on the proposal.

However, we do not believe there is ample information and data available, at this time, to allow for such a decision. We hope you will agree that a specific plan outlining the economic, recreational, environmental, and agricultural impacts are required before decisions can be made regarding a change from national recreation area to national park and preserve.

As you are aware, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) comprised of approximately 70,000 acres in Pennsylvania and New Jersey along 40 miles of the Middle Delaware National Scenic River. It is among the top 10 most visited units of the national park system with an average of approximately five million visitors annually.

No specific plan, of which we are aware, has been articulated to show how the proposed designation change would affect the land, the river and the people who use and enjoy the recreation area. For example, what impacts would the proposal have on hunting lands?

Specifically, there is no land use map available to show where hunting lands would be located within the proposed national park and where preserve lands would be located. Without such details, we do not feel a position can be reached on the proposal. And we respectfully request that no decision be made by your office without the availability of sufficient information and a formal plan.

As well, the economic impacts of the proposed designation change should be clearly illustrated, with ample time for review and comment by elected officials and citizens.

Such a significant change to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area can bring opportunities as well as challenges. Being well versed in those implications before forming a conclusion on the proposal is essential to a sustainable future.

Again, we ask that data such as a map and economic impacts report be made available before decisions are made regarding the proposal to change the designation of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) to Delaware River National Park & Lenape Preserve.

We also ask that you promptly alert us, and the leaders of any affected municipalities, to any proposed legislation that comes before Congress or is submitted to you for consideration. Your position on this Sierra Club proposal would also be appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

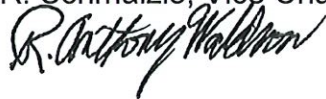
Pike County Commissioners



Matthew M. Osterberg, Chairman



Ronald R. Schmalzle, Vice Chairman



R. Anthony Waldron, Commissioner



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GARY R. ORBEN  
CHIEF CLERK

THOMAS F. FARLEY, ESQ.  
COUNTY SOLICITOR

April 28, 2022

Congressman Matt Cartwright  
226 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503

Dear Congressman Cartwright:

We are contacting you regarding the proposal, being promoted by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club, to change the designation of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) to Delaware River National Park & Lenape Preserve. The proposal is a recommendation of DWGNRA's Vision 2023 first published in August of 2014.

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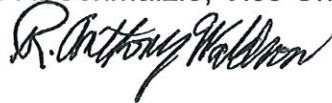
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GARY R. ORBEN  
CHIEF CLERK

THOMAS F. FARLEY, ESQ.  
COUNTY SOLICITOR

April 28, 2022

Senator Pat Toomey  
320 Market Street  
Suite 475E  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Senator Toomey:

We are contacting you regarding the proposal, being promoted by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Chapters of the Sierra Club, to change the designation of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) to Delaware River National Park & Lenape Preserve. The proposal is a recommendation of DWGNRA's Vision 2023 first published in August of 2014.

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